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and acclimatization, silk culture, horticulture, gardening, and projects of rural economy and sociology. For the best results and as a means of encouraging experiment the society offered prizes. It not only had its regularly elected members, but correspondents in all parts of France. In this way the Society of Agriculture had a practical and scientific influence throughout France.

To American economists interested in the history and development of agriculture, this volume forms a rare treat. The society exists to-day as the most famous and one of the oldest in France. The volume gives in a readable and interesting manner not only an account of the proceedings of the society, but also the efforts of its members to promote practical and scientific agriculture as a means of improving the economic and social conditions of the period. These were confessedly bad as is well known. This need was clearly recognized by members of the Society of Agriculture, many of whom are now named among France's foremost citizens who, nevertheless, fell victims to the revolution and the reign of terror because of their having been associated with royalty or because of their being of aristocratic descent. In such times their devotion to agriculture and the improvement of rural conditions availed them not.

With the reign of terror occurred the dissolution of the society. Here the volume closes, citing in a few pages the names of its members who, though proscribed, escaped from France, those who perished, and the particular lines of agricultural practice and rural economy in which the most illustrious members were interested. In the words of the author, these pages form a fitting close to the life and history of the Society of Agriculture for the time being, whose laborious and glorious activities were interrupted by the political events of the troubled period of 1793.

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VON PEEZ, ALEXANDER, und DEHM, PAUL. *England's Vorherrschaft aus der Zeit der Kontinentalsperre.* Pp. xx, 381. Price, m. 8.50. Leipzig: Duncker und Humblot, 1912.

This is an interesting historical work by a journalist and man of affairs who frankly avows that in regard to the great European struggle of the Napoleonic era he proposes to write a book that will give attention altogether to material and commercial conditions. He "would say those things which the others have omitted or failed to give due prominence." Hence we have emphasis laid upon such subjects as the industrial development in England as a basis for her triumphant participation in the great struggle; the dominance of English commercial interests in determining her policy, particularly in connection with the resumption of the war in 1803 when it was found that the peace of Amiens made no provision for the admission of English manufactures and colonial wares into the countries controlled by France, thus continuing to carry on the policy of exclusion as before; the Orders in Council and Napoleonic Decrees, the license trade and smuggling; the place of neutrals and neutral trade; the economic causes back of the defection of Russia; reconstruction in France under Napoleon; the good business—"gute Geschäfte"—England made as a result of the

Continental System, and her industrial and economic ascendancy which, as the writer indicates in the title of his work, was firmly established at this time.

That a volume written from this standpoint would have much that is novel and original is evident. Unfortunately the scientific spirit is not present. The work is not based upon the sources necessary for a thorough study of the subject, but rather upon a small portion of printed matter that was readily available. The archives of the continent are remarkably rich in unused material for the economic historian of this period, but with this the author little concerns himself. The result is a somewhat popular history, with much shrewd insight into the great forces of the period, but very little in the way of actual contribution. This is particularly true when one compares the work with the very able volumes of Captain Mahan in the same field. Indeed both the matter and the treatment suggest a very liberal use of the American scholar's work.

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PERRIS, HERBERT. *Germany and the German Emperor.* Pp. viii, 520. Price, \$3.00. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1912.

Two conflicting purposes stand out in the book. The author compares old and new Germany much to the disadvantage of the latter, and emphasizes the Machiavellian and, he would have us believe, futile policy which the government is pursuing in both domestic and foreign affairs. To furnish a proper perspective a criticism is made of German development from the Middle Ages but the chief emphasis is upon the last half century. Bismarck and Emperor William II come in for the roundest condemnation, in fact the book is largely devoted to the analysis of motives and acts of each these two dominant figures. They have created a military conscienceless world power bound on crushing out all diversity to further a national ideal. Literature, art, civic life, education, all are to be standardized by being pressed into an iron mold. Germany is a grim machine whose chief function is to restrain the natural healthy growth of Central European culture. Parallel with this argument and giving at times the most curious juxtaposition of ideas runs a theme which belittles the German accomplishment. The provinces are disaffected, the people do not approve the government, the army officers talk of war with England but they will not fight. German military methods are praised because of a glorious past but they have been outgrown. There is no danger of a European war started by Germany, because war is too costly.

Toward the German people the author adopts a more friendly tone. They have been trained away from their best traits but especially in the south there is still much to admire. The discussion of the rivalry of England and Germany is remarkably fair considering the author's evident predispositions in favor of the former country. The last chapters on the economic revolution now in progress and the political revolution which the author thinks inevitable in Germany are the best in the book.

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